

concerned and careful about that? We are giving away the bank with a pop of the finger and at the same time we say, but if we talk about whether we should have zinc in the pennies or copper in the pennies, we are going to be very careful about that. It does not make sense to me. I don't believe anything I say can sway anybody or cause any additional scrutiny of this bill. But I want to distance myself as much as possible from what is being done and I want the record to carry as clear a statement as I can make of why I am so distancing myself.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. At this time, before we go to closing, the Chair would like to announce that we have guests under the south balcony who are here as guests of Senator Lowell Johnson. They are Mrs. Carolyn VonRein, Mrs. Ruth Walla and Mrs. Alice Wolf from North Bend, Nebraska. And in the north balcony guests of Senator Peter Hoagland are 17 fourth graders from Brownell-Talbot School in Omaha with their teachers. And then into our international section, our Ambassador, Shirley Marsh, has guests this morning, a Mr. Murayi Nduhira Augustin who is the Director General of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in Rwanda Kigali, accompanied by Emily Stuman, U.S. Department of State Escort. They are guests of Shirley Marsh. If you all would stand, we would like to recognize you and welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Is there further discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Wesely, you may close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. We are discussing the committee amendments, not the bill, and the vote is now to be on the committee amendments. The committee amendments are an attempt to streamline the process, add the E clause and allow us to take those applicant groups now pending in the committee through the process by the end of this year. The other changes in the committee amendments attempt to delineate clearly the responsibilities the Director has and the different boards have and I went over that at the start. Senator Withem said nobody was listening but I can tell you that this is an attempt to work through the process. I would ask support for the committee amendments and then let's get on to the discussion of the bill. That is what Senator Chambers and Higgins are talking about, but these committee amendments are to the benefit of those applicant groups now pending in the committee. Without these committee amendments, they have no chance whatsoever to have